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Romantic fantasy, or "**romantasy**", is a [subgenre](#) of [fantasy fiction](#) that combines [fantasy](#) and [romance](#), bringing to fantasy many of the elements and conventions of the romance genre.^[1] One of the key features of romantic fantasy involves the focus on relationships, social, political, and romantic.^[2]

Romantic fantasy has been published by both fantasy lines and romance lines. As a result of the financial success of authors such as [Sarah J. Maas](#) and [Rebecca Yarros](#) in the 2010s, [publishers](#) created [imprints](#) to focus on this subgenre. Some publishers distinguish between "romantic fantasy" where the fantasy elements is most important and "fantasy romance" where the romance are most important.^[1] Others say that "the borderline between fantasy romance and romantic fantasy has essentially ceased to exist, or if it's still there, it's moving back and forth constantly".^[3] Game historian Stu Horvath noted, "the heroes and heroines of romantic fantasy seek social connection and emotional wealth. Instead of carrying on by themselves, they find belonging in a community and a purpose larger than themselves. Magic and psychic abilities are often in-born talents; intelligent animals speak; and societies are egalitarian."^[4]

2023–2024: social media trend [\[edit \]](#)

In 2023 and 2024, romantic fantasy novels termed "romantasy" became a social media trend. Sales of the books have been widely driven by promotion on social media, particularly the part of TikTok known as BookTok.^[5] *Writer's Digest* notes much of the credit for the rise in the romantic fantasy genre can be attributed to platforms such as TikTok, where word spreads more efficiently in speed and "influencability."^[6] *The Economist* notes that the genre has particular appeal to those who grew up reading young-adult fantasy, such as *Harry Potter*, and are now interested in similar themes, but with adult themes of sex and romance.^[7] Popular authors in the genre include Sarah J. Maas and Rebecca Yarros, whose *Fourth Wing*, *Iron Flame*, and *Onyx Storm* have all broken sales records and are due to be made into a TV series.^{[5][8]} Authors of novels labeled as romantasy are largely women, as is the market, and the novels are known for representing minorities.^{[7][9]}

Notable examples [\[edit \]](#)

Some examples of media in the romantic fantasy subgenre include:

Literature [\[edit \]](#)

- *The Twilight Saga* by Stephenie Meyer – A love story between Bella Swan, a human girl, and Edward Cullen, a vampire, set in a world where supernatural beings coexist with humans.
- *Empyrean series* by [Rebecca Yarros](#) (*Fourth Wing*, *Iron Flame*, *Onyx Storm*)
- *The Princess Bride* (1973) by [William Goldman](#) – Set in a magical world and features the romantic relationship between Princess Buttercup and her true love, Westley
- *A Court of Thorns and Roses* series by [Sarah J. Maas](#)
- *The Immortals* series by [Tamora Pierce](#)
- *Lost Continent (aka Aronsdale)* series^[10] by [Catherine Asaro](#)
- *Tales of the Five Hundred Kingdoms* series by [Mercedes Lackey](#)
- *The Princess and the Goblin* (1872) by [George MacDonald](#)

Films [\[edit \]](#)

- [Beauty and the Beast](#) (1991) – Disney’s animated adaptation of [the classic fairy tale](#), which focuses on the romantic relationship between Belle, a young woman, and the Beast, a prince who is magically transformed into a monster as punishment for his arrogance and cruelty.
- [The Last: Naruto the Movie](#) (2014) – a canonical adaptation and epilogue of Japanese manga series [Naruto](#) and its [anime adaptation](#), which focuses on the romantic relationship between [Naruto Uzumaki](#) and [Hinata Hyuga](#) while on a mission to rescue [Hanabi Hyuga](#), Hinata’s younger sister, from a mysterious villain [Toneri Otsutsuki](#).
- [The Little Mermaid](#) (1989) – Disney’s animated adaptation of [Hans Christian Andersen’s story](#), centered around the romance between a mermaid and a human prince, as she sacrifices a lot for love.
- [The Princess Bride](#) (1987) – The film adaptation of [William Goldman’s novel](#), which is set in a magical world and features the romantic relationship between Princess Buttercup and her true love, Westley.
- [Twilight film series](#) (2008–2012) – The film adaptations of [Stephenie Meyer’s novels](#), focusing on the supernatural love story between a human girl and a vampire.
- [The Shape of Water](#) (2017) – Follows a [mute cleaner](#) at a high-security government laboratory who falls in love with a captured [humanoid amphibian](#) creature.
- [Edward Scissorhands](#) (1990) – A story set in a visually fantastical world which focuses of Edward, an unfinished artificial humanoid that has scissors for hands, who falls in love with Kim, a teenage girl in an American suburban neighborhood.
- [Ghost](#) (1990) – focuses on a murdered banker, whose ghost sets out to save his girlfriend from the person who killed him – through the help of the psychic.
- [Legend](#) (1985) – A magical adventure in which Princess Lily and a hero named Jack must thwart the Lord of Darkness’s evil plot to cover the world in eternal night.
- [Cinderella](#) (1950) – Disney’s animated film adaptation of [the classic European folk tale](#), which centers around the romantic relationship between Cinderella and Prince Charming, in a magical fairy-tale world.

Television [[edit](#)]

- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997–2003) – A cult TV series that focuses on the adventures of the teenage girl Buffy whom was chosen to fight vampires and various other creatures, as well as explores her romantic relationship with the vampire Angel.
- *True Blood* (2008–2014) – A TV adaptation of *The Southern Vampire Mysteries* book series by *Charlaine Harris*. The series is set in a world where vampires coexist with humans and it features the romantic relationship between a telepathic waitress and a mysterious vampire.
- *Beauty and the Beast* (1987–1990) - A modern retelling of the classic fairy tale which is set in New York during the later 1980s and focuses on the romance between Catherine, a successful lawyer, and Vincent, a mysterious, lion-like man who lives in the tunnels beneath the city.

Video Games [\[edit \]](#)

- ***Xenogears***: A JRPG set in a fictional world ruled by a highly technological country named Solaris. The protagonists, Fei Fong Wong and the Solaris officer Elhaym van Houten, are destined by reincarnation to fall in love with each other.

See also [\[edit \]](#)

- Romance novel
- Medieval fantasy

References [\[edit \]](#)

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